

With this bill, not a single word is added to Federal law. It simply repeals those sections of the National Labor Relations Act and Railway Labor Act that authorizes the imposition of forced-dues contracts upon working Americans. It simply does away with the requirement that people have to belong to a union to hold a job.

I believe that every worker must have the right to join and financially support a labor union if that is what they want to do. Every worker should have the right, of his own free will and accord, but he should not be coerced to pay union dues just to keep his job. This bill simply protects that right, and no worker would ever be forced into union membership without his consent.

Union membership should be a choice that an individual makes based upon merits and benefits offered by the union. If a union truly benefits its members, they do not have to coerce them. If workers had confidence in the union leadership, if the union leadership was honest, upright, and forthright, then they would not need to coerce their members to join. A union freely held together by common interests and desires of those who voluntarily want to be members would be a better union than one in which members were forced to join. If the National Right to Work Act is passed, nothing in Federal law will stop workers from joining a union, participating in union activity, and paying union dues.

Union officials who operate their organizations in a truly representative, honest, democratic manner would find their ranks growing with volunteer members who are attracted by service, benefits, and mutual interests, not because they are forced against their will with no options to be a member of a union and pay union fees in order to hold a job. In addition, voluntary union members would be more enthusiastic about union membership simply because they had the freedom to join and were not forced into it.

When Federal laws authorizing compulsory unionism are overturned, only then will working men and women be free to exercise fully their right to work. When that time comes, they will have the freedom to choose whether they want to accept or reject union representation and union dues without facing coercion, violence, and workplace harassment by overbearing, and in many cases, disreputable union bosses.

A poll taken in 1995 indicates 8 out of 10 Americans oppose compulsory unionism—8 out of 10 Americans do not think you should be forced to belong to a union to hold a job.

Mr. Speaker, some members of this Chamber will say that this is a states rights issue and since law allows states to pass Right to Work Laws there is not need for this legislation.

Nothing could be further than the truth. First of all, Federal Law is the source of compulsory union. But more than that Mr. Speaker, Right to Work is about freedom.

No governmental authority should endorse the right of a private organization to force working men and women to pay dues or fees as a condition of employment.

Compulsory unionism is wrong on the federal level, compulsory unionism is wrong on the state level and compulsory unionism is wrong on the local level.

In the words of Supreme Court Justice Robert Jackson "The very purpose of the Bill of

Rights is to place certain subjects beyond the reach of the majority . . . ones fundamental rights wait for no election, they depend on no vote."

It is my sincere hope that my colleagues will join me in defending the fundamental individual liberty of the right to work and will support this bill.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leaves of absence were granted to:

Mr. HILL (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today after 4 p.m. and the balance of the week on account of medical reasons.

Mr. McNULTY (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today and the balance of the week on account of medical reasons.

Ms. SLAUGHTER (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today after 7:30 p.m. on account of official business.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. CONYERS, today, for 5 minutes.

Mr. FILNER, today, for 5 minutes.

Mr. STUPAK, today, for 5 minutes.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, today, for 5 minutes.

Mr. STRICKLAND, today, for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE, today, for 5 minutes.

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. WILSON) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, July 16, for 5 minutes.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART, today, for 5 minutes.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) and to include extraneous material:)

Mr. HAMILTON.

Mr. KIND.

Mr. GEJDENSON.

Mr. FROST.

Mrs. CAPPS.

Mr. LIPINSKI.

Mr. DOYLE.

Mr. CONYERS.

Mr. SERRANO.

Mr. FAZIO of California.

Mr. FILNER.

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH.

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. WILSON) and to include extraneous material:)

Mr. GALLEGLY.

Mr. GILMAN.

Mr. RADANOVICH.

Mr. PORTMAN.

Mr. OXLEY.

Mrs. ROUKEMA.

Mr. RIGGS.

Mr. PAUL.

Mr. HUNTER.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.

Mr. WOLF.

Mr. COBLE.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. GOODLATTE) and to include extraneous material:)

Ms. STABENOW.

Mr. BALDACCI.

Mr. SMITH of Texas.

Mr. PARKER.

Mr. RIGGS.

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island.

Mr. EDWARDS.

Mr. HILLEARY.

Mr. BONILLA.

Mr. UPTON.

OMISSION FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD OF FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 1998

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The SPEAKER announced his signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 2069. To permit the mineral leasing of Indian land located within the Fort Berthold Indian reservation in any case in which there is consent from a majority interest in the parcel of land under consideration for lease.

□ 2350

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 50 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, July 16, 1998, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XXIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

9974. A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Peanuts Marketed in the United States; Relaxation of Handling Regulations [Docket Nos. FV97-997-1 FIR and FV97-998-1 FIR] received June 29, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

9975. A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Revision of User Fees for 1998 Crop Cotton Classification Services to Growers [CN-98-004] received June 29, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

9976. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final